

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 20-36 are pending, with claims 1, 10, 22 and 30 being independent. Claims 5 and 15-19 have been canceled, claims 1-4, 6-14 and 20-34 have been amended, and claims 35 and 36 have been added. Support for the amendments and the new claims may be found in the application at, for example, page 5, lines 1-15; page 6, lines 11-16; and page 9, lines 8-15. No new matter has been introduced.

Initially, applicants note that the Interview Summary provided with the office action accurately reflects the substance of the telephonic interview of March 4, 2008.

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 26 and 27 have been rejected as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Izu (U.S. Patent No. 4,410,558) or Sando (U.S. Patent No. 4,479,369), and claim 20-25 and 28-34 have been rejected as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Izu or Sando, Komino (U.S. Patent No. 6,156,151) and Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 4,808,553).

With respect to claim 1 and its dependent claims, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither the admitted prior art, Izu, Sando, Komino, Yamazaki, nor any proper combination of these references describes or suggests an introducing port, a substrate support, and a first electrode arranged relative to one another so that a flow of gas is introduced by the introducing port into the chamber in a direction parallel with a first direction in which the substrate moves and is rectified in a direction away from a film formation surface of the substrate and toward apertures formed in a surface of the first electrode so that the flow of gas does not gradually contain a portion that: (1) flows toward the substrate and (2) includes particles with diameters greater than a thickness of a film to be formed on the substrate, as recited in claim 1.

The rejection relies on the admitted prior art at Fig. 3 and its description as describing the introducing port arranged to introduce a flow of gas into the chamber in a direction parallel with the first direction. However, as noted in the application at page 5, lines 1-15, the arrangement of Fig. 3 results in unwanted particles, such as fine particles generated in the discharge space or fragmental particles generated by exfoliation of a film deposited on the discharge electrode,

flowing to the substrate. By contrast, as noted at page 6, lines 11-16, the rectified flow provided by an arrangement such as is recited in claim 1 prevents the unwanted particles from flowing to the substrate. In particular, as noted in the application at page 9, lines 8-15, this rectified flow prevents fine particles and fragmental particles with diameters greater than a thickness of the film to be formed from adhering to the film.

The other references do not remedy the failure of the admitted prior art to describe or suggest an introducing port arranged relative to other components so that that the flow of gas does not gradually contain a portion that: (1) flows toward the substrate and (2) includes particles with diameters greater than a thickness of a film to be formed on the substrate, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Similarly to claim 1, independent claims 10, 22 and 30 recite a gas inlet port (claims 10 and 30) or an introducing port for gas (claim 22) arranged relative to other components so that an introduced flow of gas does not gradually contain a portion that: (1) flows toward the substrate and (2) includes particles with diameters greater than a thickness of a film to be formed on the substrate. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims and their dependent claims should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The fees in the amount of \$810 in payment of the Request for Continued Examination, \$120 in payment of the one-month extension fee and \$100 in payment of additional claims are

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Page : 11 of 11

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being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit
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Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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